

The President's Report

Issue 26 September 2011



Dr. Edward Halperin, Dean, School of Medicine (left) and UofL Executive Vice President of Health Affairs, Dr. David L. Dunn

UofL, Baptist Hospital East expand relationship

The University of Louisville and Baptist Hospital East have agreed to expand area access to UofL obstetricians and gynecologists. The agreement ensures UofL faculty will continue to provide the community the full range of reproductive services following the merger of University Hospital, Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare and Saint Joseph Health System.

Edward Halperin, dean of the School of Medicine said, "We are expanding this partnership to meet the reproductive health needs of the women and men of the region regardless of their ability to pay. In December 2010 I promised that, as a condition of the proposed hospital merger, we would maintain a full range of clinical reproductive services and a fully accredited obstetrics-gynecology residency program. We are keeping our promise."

"People throughout Louisville recognize Baptist Hospital East for the high quality care provided, especially related to obstetrical care," said Sharmila Makhija, chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health at the University of Louisville. "My colleagues are excited about the opportunity to expand on the relationship we have as we meet all

the health care needs for the women of Louisville."

Women receiving prenatal care through UofL faculty will continue to be seen at current clinic locations. In consultation with her physician, any woman planning to have a tubal ligation following the birth of her child, whether vaginally or via cesarean section, will deliver at Baptist Hospital East. Additionally, any woman wishing to have a tubal ligation not associated with a delivery will have the procedure at Baptist Hospital East. In accordance with current state law, a woman must provide at least 24 hours notice to her physician that she wishes to have a tubal ligation, whether or not it is associated with the delivery of a child.

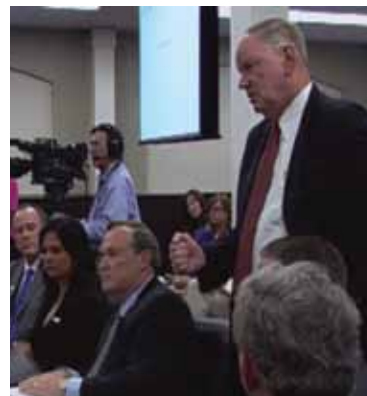
"In cases of premature delivery or emergency cesarean section, standard of practice is that physicians have a discussion with the woman after the crisis of the emergency birth and/or associated health concerns of the baby have passed," Makhija said. "In cases where, after the crisis has passed and in consultation with her physician, a woman wishes to proceed with a tubal ligation, the procedures will be scheduled at Baptist Hospital East."

Merger Update

In early August, leaders from the partner and sponsor organizations met with state and local government leaders to discuss the benefits of the pending merger including the expanded Academic Health Center in Louisville, and increased access to physicians and advanced medical care across the Commonwealth.

A week later, merger leaders appeared before a Joint Interim Subcommittee on Health and Welfare to outline details such as history, vision, challenges, solutions and benefits – and to address meaningful questions regarding the merging of three distinct organizational cultures. Throughout August, partner representatives met with multiple business, civic and faith-based groups to present the case for merger and to answer questions, allowing for additional understanding and community input.

On August 31, UofL President James Ramsey, University Hospital CEO James Taylor, Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's Healthcare CEO David Laird and Saint Joseph Health System CMO Dan Varga and others met with the editorial board of *The Courier-Journal*. (Watch the video at <http://www.livestream.com/cjnews/folder>.) While the editors and merger leaders agreed they will continue to disagree on some issues, the meeting provided all parties an opportunity to address the topic in a comprehensive and forthright manner.



Watch the video at
livestream.com/cjnews/folder

A Letter From the President

Dear Friends and Family of UofL,

We're number four in the nation! And in this case, that's an extraordinary ranking. What I'm talking about is the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* recent ranking of the colleges with the biggest percentage gains in federal funds for research and development in science and engineering from 1999–2009. According to the *Chronicle*, the University of Louisville had \$72 million in federal R & D funds (adjusted for inflation) in 2009, a 263 percent increase! That is spectacular! The head of the National Institutes of Health, Frances Collins, recently visited UofL and commended us on our striking progress (<http://louisville.edu/uofloday/campus-news/nih-director-praises-uofl>).



But the dollars tell only part of the story, a small part. It's what UofL is doing with that money that's truly exciting. As you'll see and hear in my State of the University address on September 13, our researchers are changing and improving lives across Kentucky and the U.S. You'll hear from Rob Summers, a former Oregon State University baseball player who became a paraplegic as a result of a hit-and-run accident and how he's now able to stand and, hopefully, walk one day as a result of the groundbreaking spinal research being done by Susie Harkema. You'll hear from Mike Jones of Jefferson County, whose damaged heart is rebuilding itself with his own adult stem cells courtesy of Dr. Roberto Bolli's team of researchers.

These are the stories I love to tell and these are the kinds of stories all of us at UofL are proud to share. We wouldn't be telling them without funding – funding that we're aggressively pursuing, and receiving, because of the outstanding work of UofL faculty – work that's changing lives.

James A. Ramsey



Chandrashekhar Pendyala, graduate student at UofL's Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research, studies the use of sunlight to generate hydrogen by splitting water.

Advancing the search for inexpensive, clean energy

Scientists at UofL and the University of Kentucky are collaborating on clean fuel initiatives, with U.S. Department of Energy funding. Chemical engineering professor Mahendra Sunkara and graduate student Chandrashekhar Pendyala at UofL's Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research, and professors Madhu Menon and R. Michael Sheetz at the UK Center for Computational Sciences, are leading research into using sunlight to generate hydrogen from water. *The Physical Review Journal* published their findings earlier in August. (Phys Rev B 84, 075304).

Pure hydrogen gas is not found in free abundance on Earth and must be manufactured by unlocking it from other compounds. Through a process called photoelectrochemical (PEC) water splitting, the team has found that an alloy of antimony (Sb) and gallium nitride (GaN) helps sunlight split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen. Once they are separate, hydrogen can be collected. The GaN-Sb alloy has the potential to convert solar energy into an economical, carbon-free source for hydrogen, Sunkara said.

The alloy material is the first simple, easy-to-produce substance to be considered a candidate for PEC water splitting, and once it is widely available, it could conceivably be used to make zero-emissions fuel for powering homes and cars and to heat homes.

UofL by the Numbers

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently put out its almanac edition. UofL was listed as:

- ▶ The top cash fund raiser in Kentucky **(\$70,644,991)**
- ▶ **#4** in the United States in percentage gains for federal funds for research and development in science, engineering, (adjusted for inflation) between 1999 and 2009
- ▶ **One of 28 colleges in the country** that saw its federal science funds double between 1999 and 2009
- ▶ Being among the **Top 100** for overall endowment

Nucleus celebrates growth

Nucleus, an economic development initiative of the University of Louisville Foundation, celebrated the near-capacity leasing of its Innovation Park-Jefferson Street location last month.

"It isn't enough just to conduct research. We have to translate that research into real-world applications that spur economic growth and improve the quality of life for people in the community and the state. That's what Nucleus is all about," said President James Ramsey at the event. "When the UofL Foundation created Nucleus, we committed to providing space and support for companies that want to bring their new ideas and technologies to the marketplace."

With the addition of six new companies and the expansion of another, the former MedCenter 3 is nearly full, with about 130 employees in the building, according to Nucleus CEO Vickie Yates Brown. The heightened interest in the location, she said, is evidence that Louisville is becoming a hub for entrepreneurs and companies built on innovation.

Companies in Nucleus Innovation Park-Jefferson Street range from health sciences and nanotechnology applications to energy research, to career assistance for military veterans. They include: Advanced Energy Materials Inc.; Kentuckiana Medical Reciprocal Risk Retention Group; LifeTouch Technologies, LLC; Louisville Bioscience Inc.; PGXL Laboratories; Pharmaron; PRFusion; Regenerex; Synergy/Dev LLC; The Company Leader; The Iasis Group Inc.; TNG Pharmaceutical; University Physicians' Associates; Edumedics; International Center for Long Term Care Innovation (InnovateLTC); MetaCyte Business Lab; Nucleus; UofL Office of Technology Transfer; GLI's EnterpriseCORP; and, Sickel Cell Association of Kentuckiana.



NIH director commends UofL

Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, spoke in Louisville on Aug. 25 about the importance of NIH funding to UofL and other institutions, before leading a public forum on the future direction of biomedical research. Collins, a guest of Sen. Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Republican Leader, noted NIH funding this year supports about 2,000 jobs in Kentucky and the agency has awarded \$143 million to the Commonwealth, with \$48 million coming to Louisville.

Coincidentally, Collins' visit came on the same day that the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ran an article on the top 100 universities in largest percentage gains in federal funding for research and development in sciences and engineering for the period 1999-2009.

UofL ranked fourth on that list with an increase of 263.1 percent over the decade. The university had \$20 million in federal funds for science research in 1999 and \$72.7 million in 2009. "You should be proud of the trajectory those research dollars are on," Collins told President James Ramsey and others at the event.

The increase in securing the federal science funding is a testament of the university's leadership, according to Collins, who also said he was impressed by UofL's focus on translational research – that is, getting discoveries from the lab to the bedside. UofL is one of 28 colleges and universities to double federal sciences monies in a decade, according to the *Chronicle*.



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